



Military Academy Nominations Frequently Asked Questions

What are the basic eligibility requirements?

Each applicant for a nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1st of the year of admission to an academy:

- Age: Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed their 23rd birthday
- Citizenship: Must be a U.S. citizen
- Marital Status: Must be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- Residence: In order to receive a nomination from Congressman Cartwright, applicant must have a legal residence within the boundaries of the 8th Congressional District of Pennsylvania
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy

What is a nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. A candidate may seek a nomination from the following:

- A member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which the candidate resides

- Both U.S. Senators from his or her state
- The Vice President of the United States

It is in your best interest to request a nomination from any source for which you are eligible.

If you are currently serving in the military or are the son or daughter of a career military member or service-connected disabled veteran, you may also seek a “service-connected” slot through your chain of command or directly from the Academy. Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) members may also seek nominations through their chain of command. Additional information regarding these nomination types is available directly from the Academies.

What is the difference between a nomination and an appointment?

A nomination is the authority from a nominating source (see above) for a candidate to be considered for entrance by an academy. An appointment is the actual slot for admission from the candidate’s preferred academy.

How do I submit an application for nomination to Congressman Cartwright’s office?

The application period for the class of 2028 is open from May 15, 2023, to Sept. 29, 2023.

Applications should be submitted online [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, you can call Congressman Cartwright’s office at 570-341-1050.

When do I apply for a nomination?

The nomination application period opens May 15th of each year for those candidates who are high school juniors and will be seniors the following school year, or who have already graduated.

What is the deadline for completing a digital nomination file?

The deadline for submitting a nomination packet to my District Office for the class of 2028 is Sept. 29, 2023, before 5 p.m.

What must be included in my digital nomination file?

A complete digital nomination file consists of the following items:

- **Completed and signed application**
- Uploaded materials from all high schools or colleges attended, including transcript(s) and standardized test scores
- Attached headshot (jpeg)
- A resume of extracurricular activities that includes scholastic achievements, community activities, athletics, clubs, leadership experience and special achievements
- An essay stating why you want to attend a service academy (750 words)
- A community involvement essay (500 words)
- Two recommendation letters from individuals who know you personally (but are not related to you)

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be scheduled for an interview in December. After the interviews (typically within 2-3 weeks), candidates will be notified in writing of the result of their application.

What criteria are used in selecting candidates?

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation. Factors such as academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, leadership skills, physical aptitude, character, motivation, and the results of interviews are taken into consideration and compared with other applicants.

Does Congressman Cartwright automatically nominate everyone who applies?

No. Applicants will be evaluated and only offered a nomination if their application is competitive.

Can I be nominated by Congressman Cartwright to multiple academies?

Yes. You can be nominated to multiple academies depending on how well you have competed among this year's pool of candidates. It is also possible to win multiple appointments directly from the Academies. Be sure to rank on your application the academies which you would like to attend if nominated.

How many academies are there?

There are five service academies:

- **U.S. Military Academy at West Point**, New York
- **U.S. Naval Academy** at Annapolis, Maryland
- **U.S. Air Force Academy** at Colorado Springs, Colorado
- **U.S. Merchant Marine Academy** at Kings Point, New York
- **U.S. Coast Guard Academy** at New London, Connecticut

Are the requirements the same for all the service academies?

No. Although many of the qualifications are similar, each academy operates under its own admissions guidelines. Visit the academy of your choice via their websites for each academy's admissions qualifications. It is not necessary to seek a nomination to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, as the USCGA accepts candidates based on their own testing criteria.

Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf?

Some of the people applicants typically seek recommendations from include:

- Teachers
- Counselors
- Employers
- Coaches
- Clergy
- Scout Leaders

What should be included in recommendation letters?

When requesting recommendation letters, share the following questions with those you ask. Our review board will be focused on the following themes:

- How long they have known you and in what capacity
- Your leadership characteristics, motivation, athletic ability, teamwork capabilities and demonstrated perseverance under stressful situations
- What are your weaknesses
- Do they know of any reason why you would be unable to meet the rigorous requirements needed for success while attending a U.S. Service Academy
- What do they see as your primary motivation to attend a U.S. Service Academy

What happens after I receive a nomination from Congressman Cartwright?

You will be placed among a select group of nominees, and the academy will make the final decision on your status and eligibility. If selected, you will receive an offer of admission (an appointment) directly from the academy.

Will I be automatically selected by the academy after I receive a nomination?

No. You will be placed among a select group of nominees, and the academy will make the final decision. If selected, you will receive an offer of admission (an appointment) directly from the academy.

When will I know if I have been offered an appointment by an academy?

Academies will begin to notify candidates of their admission status in February. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May. Several academies offer rolling appointments, and you may know as early as October or as late as May if you are receiving an appointment.

Can you explain the number of appointments and slots available each year to Congressman Cartwright?

Each member of Congress is given 5 slots for each of three academies (West Point, the Naval Academy, and the Air Force Academy). For each slot that is open, Congressman Cartwright can nominate up to ten candidates. Thus, if Congressman Cartwright had four slots open and wished to fill all of them, he could nominate 40 students. The number of slots available (and thus, the number of students that Congressman Cartwright can nominate) varies each year. Please note that Congressman Cartwright does not have to fill all or even any of the open slots. The Merchant Marine Academy grants 10 slots per member of Congress.